PRESENT

CHAPTER 3

BY IKUEMI RYOU

THE END

RAWS KALENDEL
TRANSLATOR DEN
EDITOR TIM
QC ISHITORI

THE-END-MANGA.LIVEJOURNAL.COM

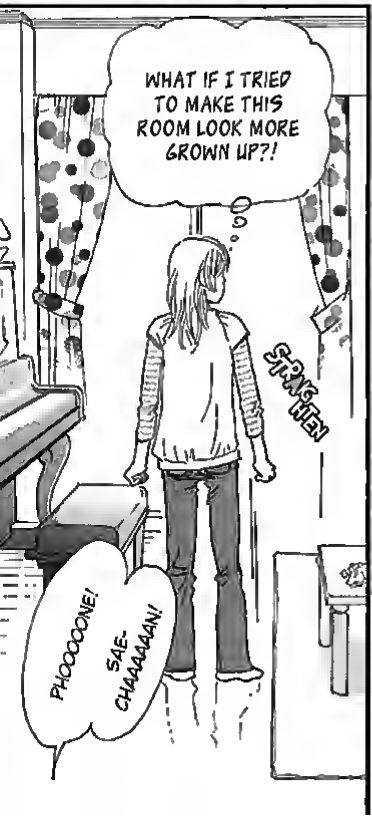
ALWAYS OPEN TO NEW FREELANCERS
FINISHING OFF PROJECTS OF THEIR CHOOSING!

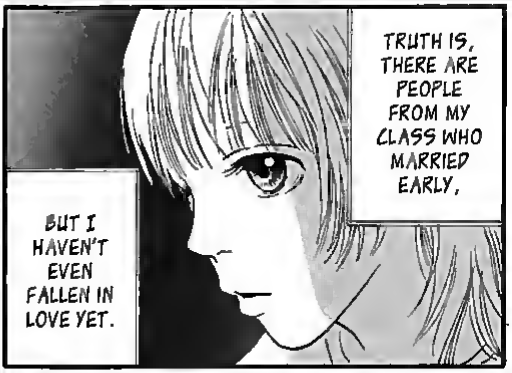
あなたにきいてほしい
Something I Want to Ask You

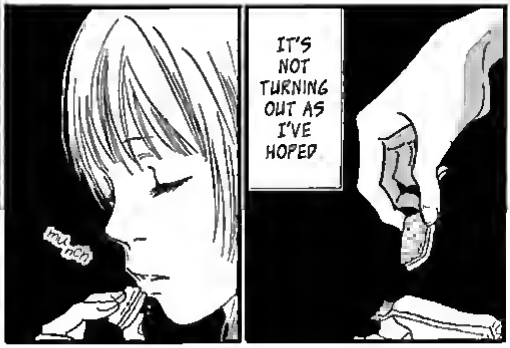
I NEVER ONCE REMEMBERED YOU,
UNTIL THAT TIME.
Kojima Sae
Shuei High Year 3 Class 1
Class Reunion Details
Date: March 12
Venue
AH, MOM.
ISN'T KAZUMI-CHAN'S WEDDING ON THE 12TH?
YES. DID SOMETHING COME UP?

AND IT'S ONLY BEEN TWO YEARS. I DON'T THINK ANYONE HAS CHANGED MUCH.
I CAN SEE MY CLOSE FRIENDS ANYTIME.
Like Maru-chan and Aiko-chan.
AH, BUT I TOLD THEM YOU WERE GOING TO BE AT THE WEDDING.
MY HIGH SCHOOL CLASS REUNION.
ARE YOU SURE?
IT'S FINE... I'M GOING.
I wanna eat nice food
OKAY.
CLATTER
DAD'S GONNA BE HOME SOON.
C'MON, HELP ME WITH THIS!
OR MAYBE YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO HASN'T CHANGED, SAE-CHAN.
buu
I GRADUATED FROM JUNIOR COLLEGE THIS YEAR.
I'VE BEEN AN OFFICE LADY SINCE APRIL.

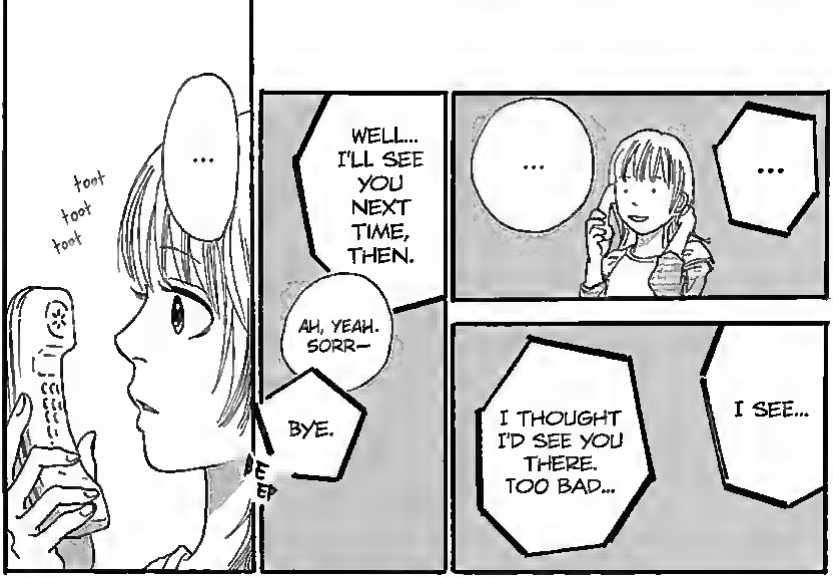
ALTHOUGH MY MOM STILL SEES ME AS A KID.
EATING SWEETS AGAIN AS ALWAYS ...
OHH SAE-CHAN ...
BUT I'M NOW 20, WHICH IS THE SAME AGE AS MY MOM WHEN SHE GAVE BIRTH TO ME.
I FELT INSECURE, BEING THRUST INTO SOCIETY WHEN I STILL FELT LIKE SUCH A CHILD.


WHAT IF I TRIED TO MAKE THIS ROOM LOOK MORE GROWN UP?!
SPRING TIEN
PHOOOONE! SAE-CHAAAAAN!


TRUTH IS, THERE ARE PEOPLE FROM MY CLASS WHO MARRIED EARLY,
BUT I HAVEN'T EVEN FALLEN IN LOVE YET.


IT'S NOT TURNING OUT AS I'VE HOPED
mumch

WHO WOULD CALL ME ON THE LANDLINE?
HELLO?
SAE-SAN?
YES?
IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
...
THIS IS TAKAGI.
YES?
UM...
WHICH TAKAGI-SAN IS THIS?
...
IT'S TAKAGI AYUMI.
WE WERE CLASS-MATES IN THIRD YEAR.
AH...
AH...
YEAH, HELLO.
TAKAGI-SAN...
...
I'M SORRY THIS IS OUT OF THE BLUE,
BUT I JUST RECEIVED THE INFO ABOUT THE REUNION AND I START-ED TO FEEL NOSTAL-GIC.
AH...
OKAY...
YOU'RE GOING, RIGHT? TO THE REUNION?
WELL...
IT'S THE SAME DAY AS MY COUSIN'S WEDDING.



Takagi Ayumi

Hayata Akihisa
CAFE
I DECIDED TO GO TO THE REUNION
BECAUSE OF THAT SUDDEN CALL FROM A CLASSMATE WHO I DON'T PARTICULARLY REMEMBER.
BECAUSE I WANT TO MEET HAYATA-KUN, THE GUY I LIKED IN HIGH SCHOOL WHO I NOW JUST CAME ACROSS AGAIN AFTER OPENING MY YEARBOOK.
BECAUSE I'M NOT REALLY CLOSE WITH MY COUSIN WHO'S 8 YEARS OLDER
THAT KID AGAIN~
CLINK
CLINK
LEAVING HER SWEETS SCATTERED AROUND THE ROOM ...

CLICK CLICK
HELLO?
MARU-CHAN?
WOOSH
YOU'RE LATE. WHERE ARE YOU?
I'M SORRY,
BUT MY BOYFRIEND SUDDENLY CAME OVER.
SO I CAN'T GO TODAY.
Just say hi to everyone for me.
What?
I GUESS IT CAN'T BE HELPED WHEN YOU'RE IN A LONG DISTANCE RELATIONSHIP.
BUT IT'S NOT GONNA BE THE SAME WITHOUT MARU-CHAN.
beep beep
whoosh
.....
.....
I'M GETTING
KINDA NERVOUS

Wah!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING THERE, KOJIMA?
Ack!
Woooooh!
NO WAY. SAE?!
HAYA-TAAA!
ARE YOU TWO GOING OUT?
What's with that look Idiotic as always
HAYATA-KUN...
C'MON, LET'S GO IN.
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
AH.
AH—

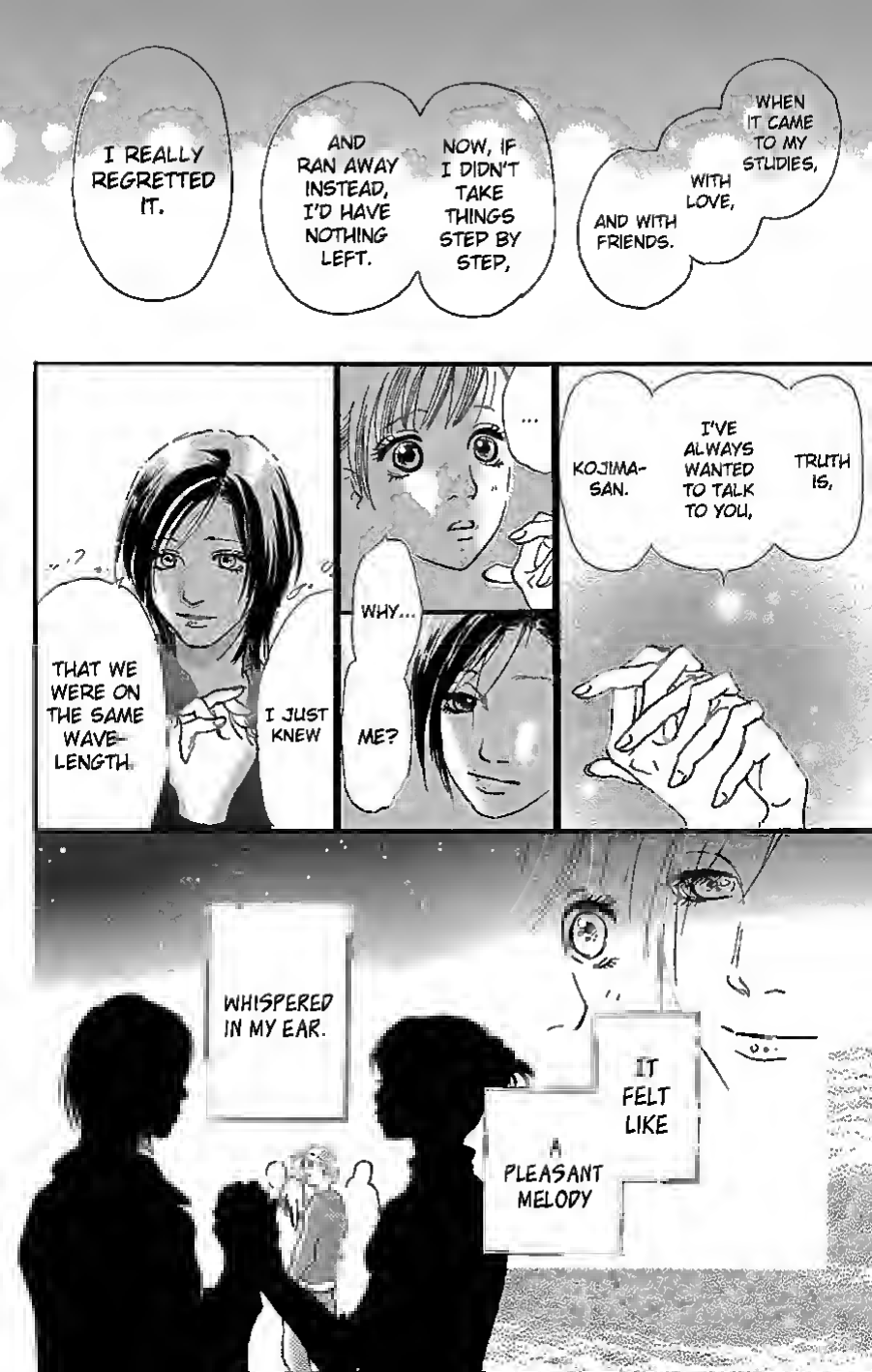
NO, NO. I JUST SAW HIM THERE.
You surprised me
AW C'MON, THAT WAS IT?
HEY! HOW ARE YOU DOING?
WOAH, YOU GOT FAT!
Wh Hh Hh Hh
What? It's muscle!
squeeze squeeze
Sae! Long time no see!
TAKAGI... ...SAN?
YEAH! IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
WANNA SIT OVER HERE?
UH...
HUH?
KOJIMA-SAN!
IT'S BEEN SO LONG!
AH.
I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D COME.

OH?
I HAD PLASTIC SURGERY.
MY INITIAL REACTION MUST HAVE LOOKED SO WEIRD.
HUH...
I SEE...
THAT'S SOOO GREAT. I WANNA GET THINNER TOO.
YEP, I'M ON A DIET!
DID YOU GET SLIMMER?
WOW...
YOU'RE SO PRETTY NOW.
AH, REALLY?
AH...
DOUBLE EYELID SURGERY, RIGHT?
WHY AM I NOT GETTING A GOOD FEELING ABOUT THIS?
HMMM...
AND HAS HER CHIN ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THAT?
BUT
HASN'T HER SKELETAL STRUCTURE CHANGED?
SHE EVEN CALLED ME AT HOME...
THAT SHE GOT PRETTIER.
SO SHE REALLY WANTED TO SHOW ME

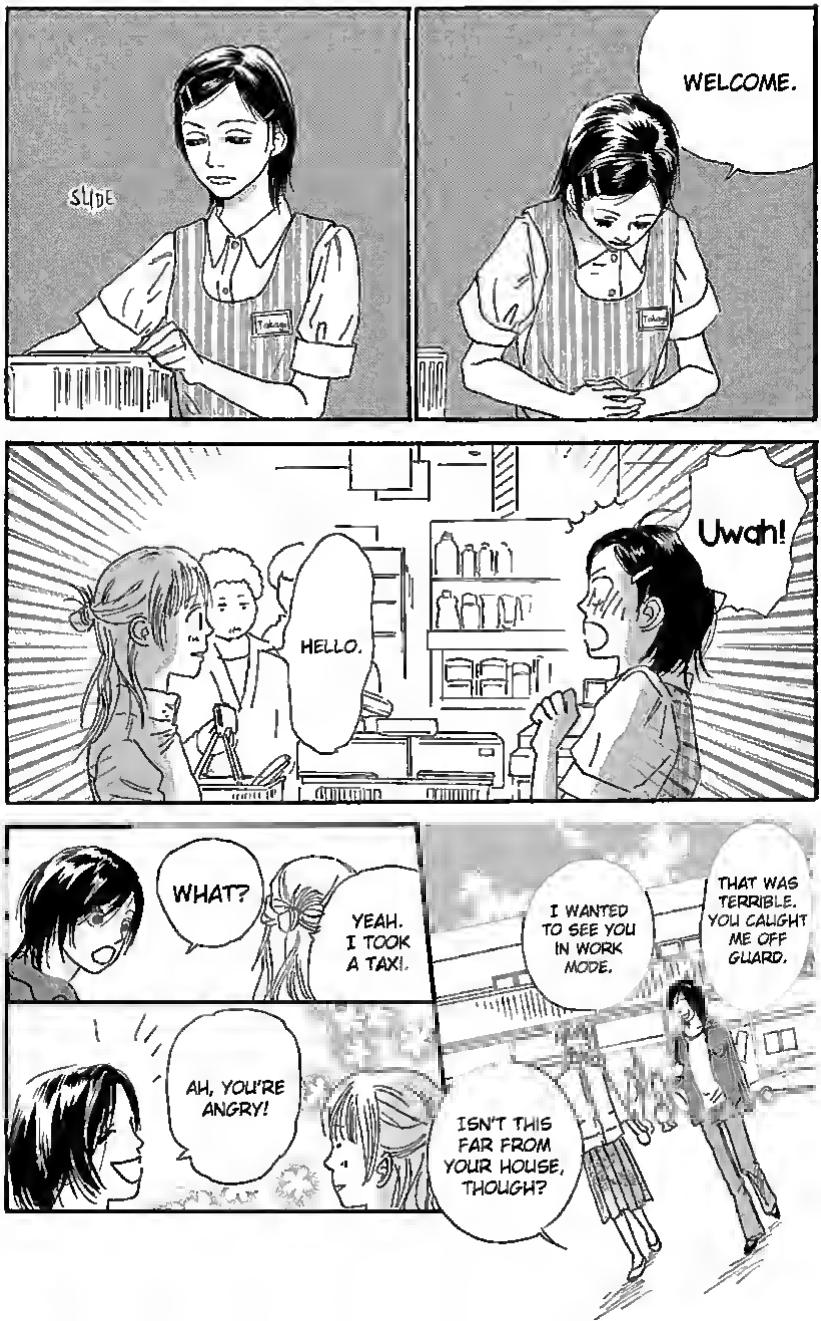
Whaaaat?! How the hell did you get into such a top-ranking company?!
ERR...
That's amazing!
UMM...
Ehhh
Ehhh
So lucky~~
AHHH... YOU GOT IN THROUGH CONNECTIONS!
PA... ER, MY DAD KNOWS A LOT OF PEOPLE...
S,
silence.....
SORRY...
KOJIMA-SAN, YOU WENT TO JUNIOR COLLEGE, RIGHT?
AH, YEAH.
WHERE DO YOU WORK NOW?
AH,
UM, IN S COMPANY.
AHA HA HA!
What the hell was that?!
AH, UM,
Aha ha ha
WHAT ABOUT YOU, TAKAGI-SAN?
I was just...
Wa ha ha ha ha
WA HA HA HA
What are you apologizing for?
I'M A CASHIER AT A SUPERMARKET AND I'M TAKING HOMEMAKING LESSONS.

BUT THAT'S EXACTLY IT!
YEAH, BUT I THINK IT'S GREAT THAT SHE WAS SO HONEST WITH US ABOUT THE SURGERY.
SHE WAS NEVER THAT KIND OF PERSON.
TOILET
THAT WAS SURPRISING, HUH?
WITH TAKAGI-SAN.
HHHH
SHE WAS VERY QUIET,
AND GLOOMY.
YEAH... ...
HEY, DID YOU GET A CALL FROM TAKAGI-SAN?
HUH? WHY WOULD SHE CALL ME? WHY, DID SHE CALL YOU?
CREAK
THEY'RE GOING TO THE AFTER-PARTY!
YEAH...
HUH?
YOU WEREN'T CLOSE THOUGH, HUH.
I MEAN, BUT YOU DIDN'T HATE EACH OTHER EITHER.

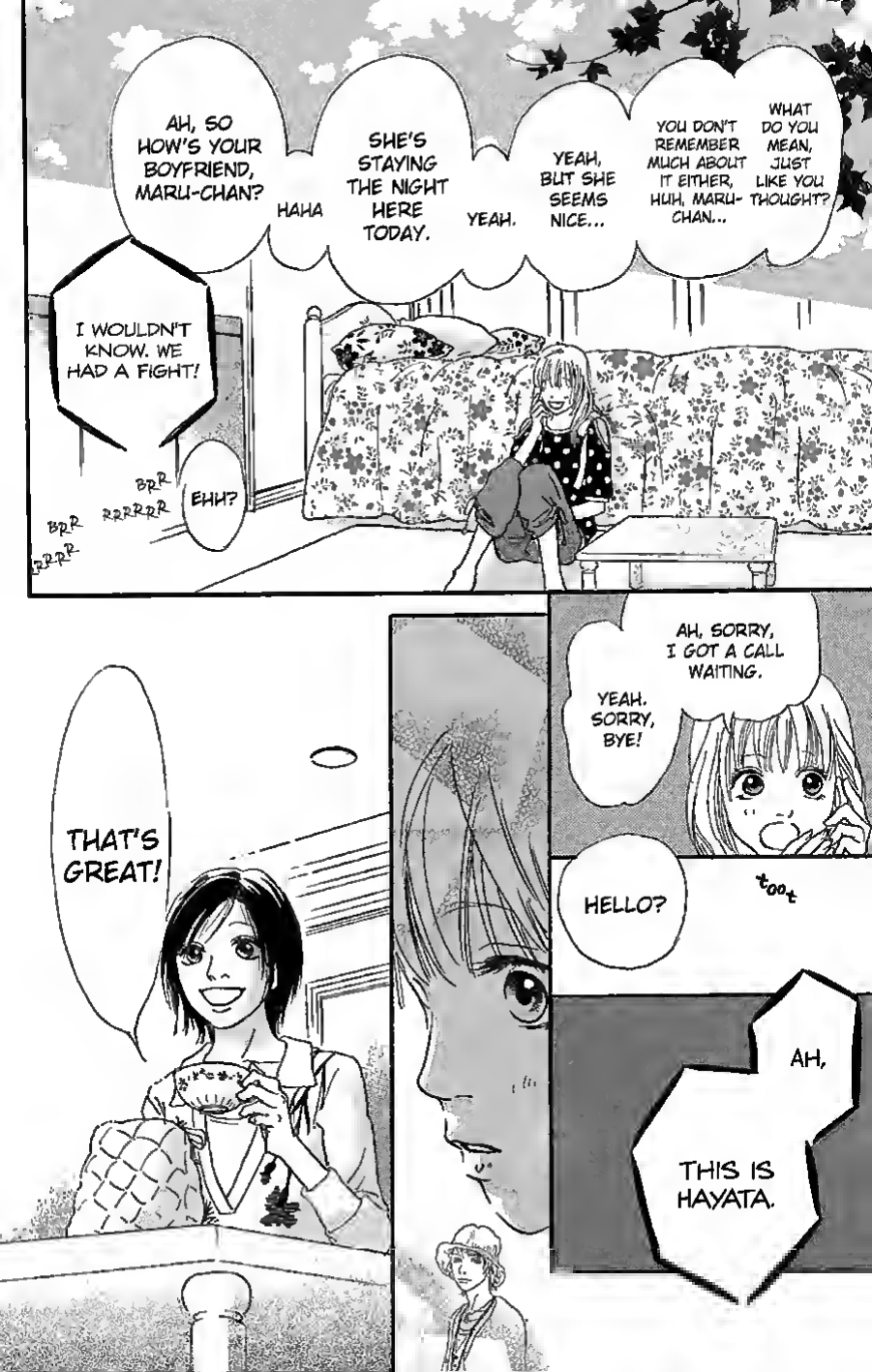
ARE YOU GOING?
YEAH.
wa ha ha ha ha
kya ha ha
DID
HE WAIT FOR ME?
FLINCH
I NEVER HAD CONFIDENCE NO MATTER WHAT I DID.
WHEN WE WERE IN HIGH SCHOOL,

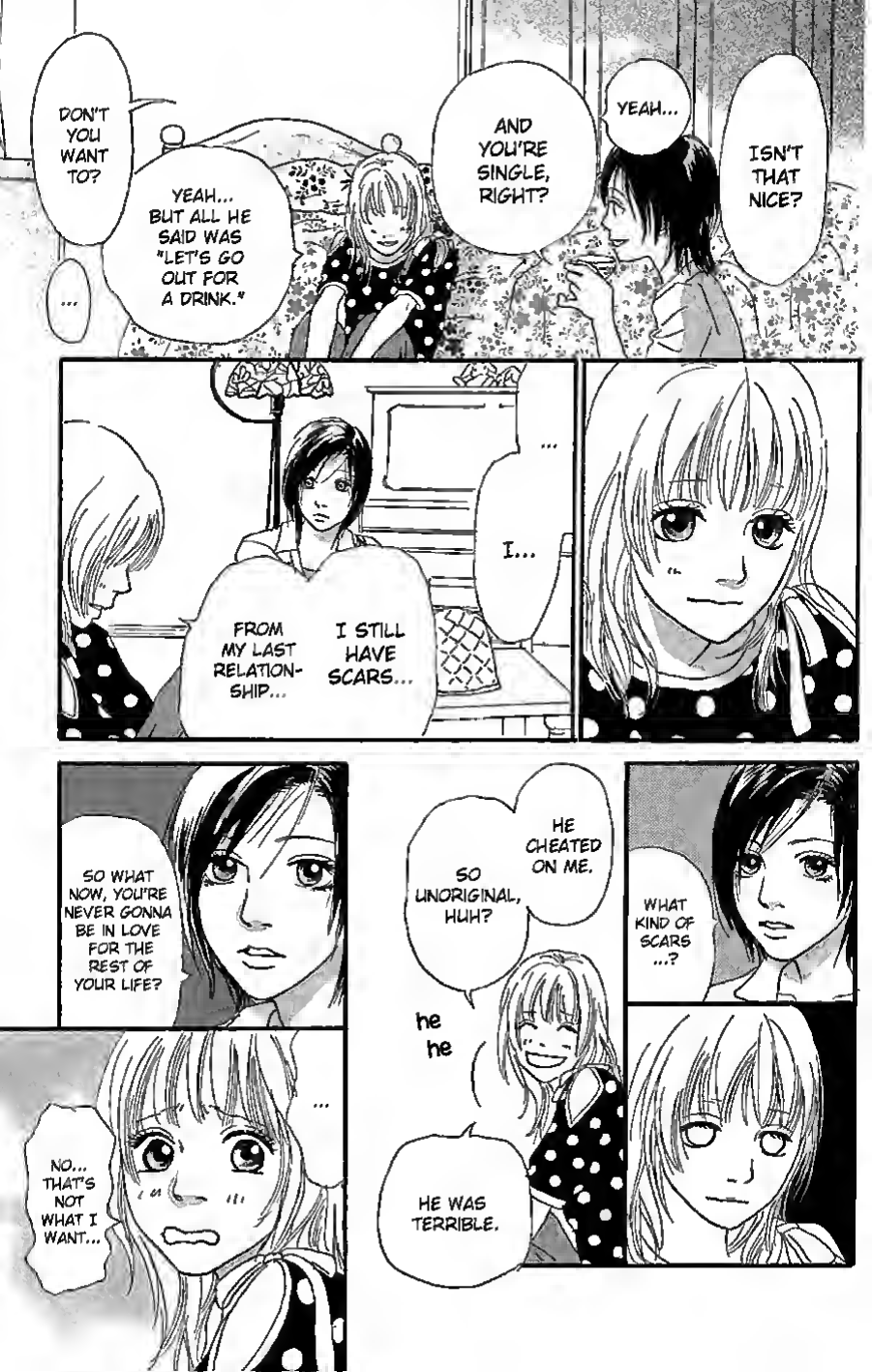

I REALLY REGRETTED IT.
AND RAN AWAY INSTEAD, I'D HAVE NOTHING LEFT.
NOW, IF I DIDN'T TAKE THINGS STEP BY STEP,
WHEN IT CAME TO MY STUDIES,
WITH LOVE,
AND WITH FRIENDS.
KOJIMA-SAN.
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO TALK TO YOU,
TRUTH IS,
...
WHY...
ME?
THAT WE WERE ON THE SAME WAVE-LENGTH.
I JUST KNEW
WHISPERED IN MY EAR.
IT FELT LIKE A PLEASANT MELODY

...
DON'T CALL ME "KOJIMA-SAN".
JUST CALL ME SAE, OKAY?
AYU.
YOUR WARMTH ERASED ALL THE NEGATIVE FEELINGS I HAD.
I'M GLAD I CAME HERE INSTEAD OF THE WEDDING.
THAT MIGHT BE UNFAIR TO MY COUSIN, BUT THAT'S HOW I HONESTLY FEEL.
over there, ladies!
WA HA HA


SLIDE
WELCOME.
Uwah!
HELLO.
WHAT?
YEAH. I TOOK A TAXI.
AH, YOU'RE ANGRY!
ISN'T THIS FAR FROM YOUR HOUSE, THOUGH?
I WANTED TO SEE YOU IN WORK MODE.
THAT WAS TERRIBLE. YOU CAUGHT ME OFF GUARD.

Yeeahh they're both cute
WANNA HAVE FUN?
YOU TWO WITH NO BOY-FRIENDS~
TAP
NOPE.
DO YOU HAVE A BOY-FRIEND?
NOPE. YOU?
YEAH.
YOU SAID YOU WERE TAKING HOME-MAKING CLASSES?
HEY,
JUST GIVE US ONE MINUTE OF YOUR TIME!
ONE MINUTE!
WAIT- AH, A,
NOPE.
Shit
Idiots!
Ugly wings!
YOU PER-SISTENT PIG-SHITS!!
BEHIND THE CASHIER,
AYU WAS LIKE A CALM LILY.


AH, SO HOW'S YOUR BOYFRIEND, MARU-CHAN?
HAHA
SHE'S STAYING THE NIGHT HERE TODAY.
YEAH.
YEAH, BUT SHE SEEMS NICE...
YOU DON'T REMEMBER MUCH ABOUT IT EITHER, HUH, MARU-CHAN...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, JUST LIKE YOU THOUGHT?
I WOULDN'T KNOW. WE HAD A FIGHT!
EHH?
BRR
RRRRRR
BRR
RRRR
AH, SORRY, I GOT A CALL WAITING.
YEAH. SORRY, BYE!
HELLO?
toot
AH,
THIS IS HAYATA.
THAT'S GREAT!


ISN'T THAT NICE?
YEAH...
AND YOU'RE SINGLE, RIGHT?
YEAH... BUT ALL HE SAID WAS "LET'S GO OUT FOR A DRINK."
DON'T YOU WANT TO?
...
I...
...
I STILL HAVE SCARS...
FROM MY LAST RELATION-SHIP...
WHAT KIND OF SCARS ...?
HE CHEATED ON ME.
SO UNORIGINAL, HUH?
he he
HE WAS TERRIBLE.
SO WHAT NOW, YOU'RE NEVER GONNA BE IN LOVE FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE?
...
NO... THAT'S NOT WHAT I WANT...

I KNOW.
ME TOO.
ALWAYS GET UP, NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU'VE BEEN HURT.
THAT'S ALWAYS HOW I DO THINGS.
IT'S STRANGE.
THE TAKAGI AYUMI FROM HIGH SCHOOL THAT I SHOULD HAVE ALREADY FORGOTTEN KEEPS FLOATING AT THE BACK OF MY MIND.
SHE HAD HUMPED SHOULDERS

...
...
SHE WAS JUST THERE. LIKE A WALL IN THE ROOM.
SHE WASN'T HATED,
...SAE.
A DESK, A CHAIR.
BUT SHE WASN'T LIKED EITHER.
...
A...
...
Haha haha!
BLUSH
YOU HAD AN EYE-LASH
TAP
THERE.
YOUR HOUSE IS NICE.
YOUR ROOM'S CUTE TOO.
AND YOUR BED,
AND YOUR BED-SHEETS.
THEY'RE ALL SO YOU.

YOU HAVE A BEAUTIFUL GARDEN, TOO...
WHAT ABOUT YOUR HOUSE?
JUST REGULAR COMPANY HOUSING.
FOR SOME REASON PLANTS DON'T GROW THERE.
REALLY? THAT'S WEIRD.
AH, THIS BRINGS BACK MEMORIES. I ATE THIS A LOT WHEN I WAS A KID.
AH, THAT'S AN OLD ONE.
I HAVE A FRESH ONE HERE.
I HAVE SOME OTHER STUFF HERE, TOO...
IT'S FINE. I'M NOT EATING IT.
UHA-GO
THIS IS SO GOOD!
YOU'RE VERY GOOD AT COOKING, MRS. KOJIMA.
THAT'S NICE TO HEAR. EAT UP!
ALL SAE DOES IS COMPLAIN ABOUT IT.
Ahahaha really!
MOOOM, STOP IT~

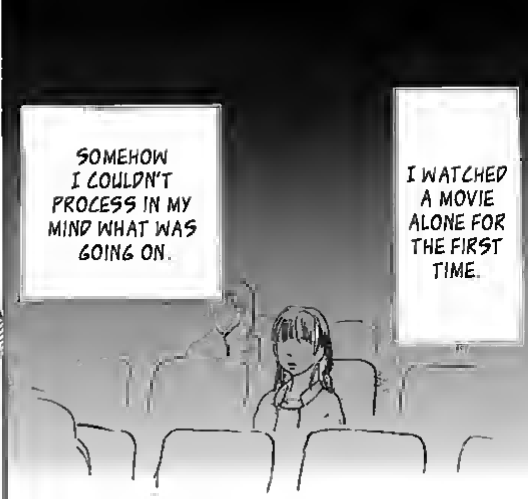
AHH, YOUR BATHTUB'S SO HUGE, IT WAS SO RELAXING.
Thanks for the refreshing tea.
OKAY, I'M NEXT.
JUST TAKE WHAT YOU WANT TO DRINK, OKAY?
OKAY, THANKS.
CLOSE
slide

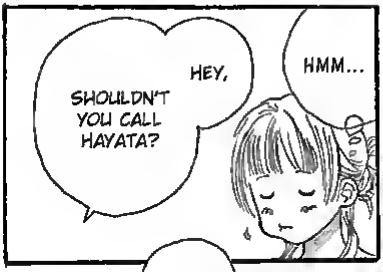
MY FACE IS NATURALLY
plunk
SMILING ON ITS OWN.
AHHHH.
CLICK
HEHE...
SLIDE..

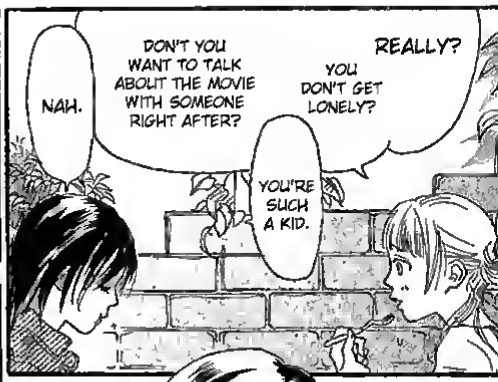
VRRRRRR
PUFF
HEY, AYU.
I'M SO HAPPY WE MET AGAIN.
VRRRRR
VRRRRRRRR
Hayata Akihisa
VRRRRR
VRRRRR
I PROMISED HAYATA-KUN I'D GO TO THE MOVIES WITH HIM.

IT LOOKS LIKE EVERYTHING'S TURNING OUT SO WELL RIGHT NOW.
click click
HE'S LATE... THE MOVIE IS STARTING SOON!
VRRRR
...
IT'S SCARING ME A BIT.
KOJIMA? SORRY!
AH, WHAT'S WRONG? THE MOVIE IS GONNA START.
AH, ER... I GOT CALLED INTO WORK TODAY SUDDENLY.
I'M SORRY.
WE'RE SHORT ON STAFF, SO I ABSOLUTELY HAD TO GO...
AHH... I SEE...
I'M REALLY SORRY.
WHAT...
SHOULD I DO...
IT'S OKAY, YOU HAD NO CHOICE.
I'LL CALL YOU LATER!
whoosh
OKAY. GOOD LUCK WITH WORK.
BYE BYE.
click
whoosh

I WATCH MOVIES ALONE.


I WATCHED A MOVIE ALONE FOR THE FIRST TIME.
SOMEHOW I COULDN'T PROCESS IN MY MIND WHAT WAS GOING ON.


HMM...
HEY, SHOULDN'T YOU CALL HAYATA?


REALLY?
YOU DON'T GET LONELY?
DON'T YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT THE MOVIE WITH SOMEONE RIGHT AFTER?
NAH.
YOU'RE SUCH A KID.

HM?
HE CANCELED ON YOU AT THE LAST MINUTE. I THINK YOU SHOULD GIVE HIM A QUICK CALL.
GO CALL HIM!

I MEAN, THAT'S ALSO GOOD,
BUT I CAN JUST RUMINATE ON THE IMPACT OF THE MOVIE BY MYSELF.

Welcome.
HE REALLY CAME RIGHT AWAY.
Okay, I'll come right away.
WE GAVE HAYATA-KUN THE NAME OF THE PLACE, TOLD HIM TO "GO RIGHT NOW!" THEN HUNG UP.
.....
.....
HUH? YEAH.
SO, HAVE YOU BEEN GOING TO UNIVERSITY?
YOU'RE NOT JUST WORKING ALL THE TIME, ARE YOU?
WELL, IT'S SPRING BREAK.
GIN LIME PLEASE.
WHY THE HELL
AM I SO GODDAMN NERVOUS?
Snicker
Snicker
kyaha haha
HERE.
slips in

SO, WHAT'S THIS...
ARE YOU TWO CLOSE OR SOMETHING?
YEAH, WE ARE.
WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER THE WHOLE NIGHT.
AH, I SEE.

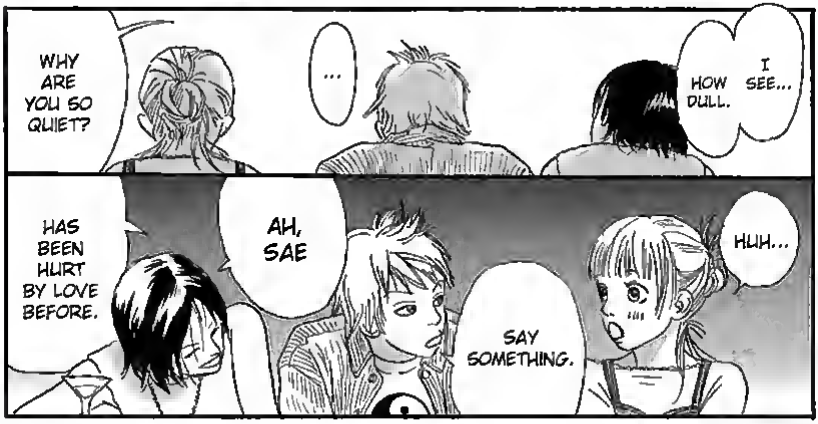
...HUH?

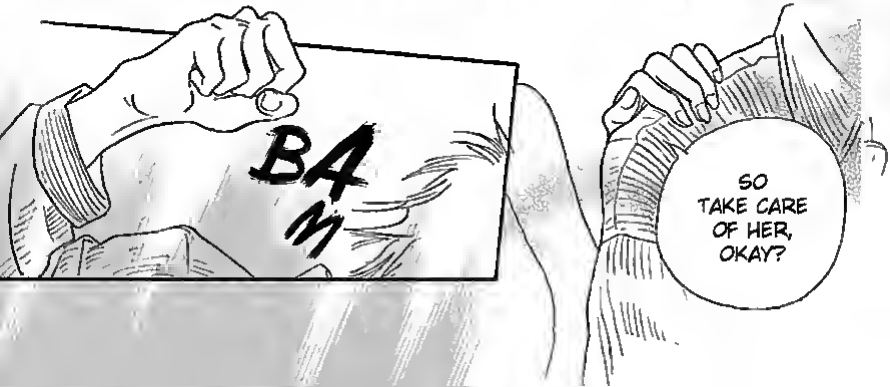
I DON'T REMEMBER YOU MUCH,
WHAT'S WITH THAT RESPONSE ...?
bick bick
BUT YOU CHANGED, HUH.
THE WAY YOU LOOK...
THE WAY YOU ARE...

HEY, DO YOU WANT SOMETHING SWEET?
...
YEAH? SHOULD WE GET SOME CHOCOLATE?
HAYATA-KUN'S IN A BAD MOOD.

IF YOU DON'T REMEMBER ME MUCH HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT I'VE CHANGED THE WAY I AM?

T/N: In Japan, girls give chocolates to guys on Valentine's Day. Next month on White Day, the guys give reciprocate gifts to the girls.





SHUT THE FUCK UP!
CLANG
SORRY, SAE.
I'M LEAV-ING.
...
WH...
WH...

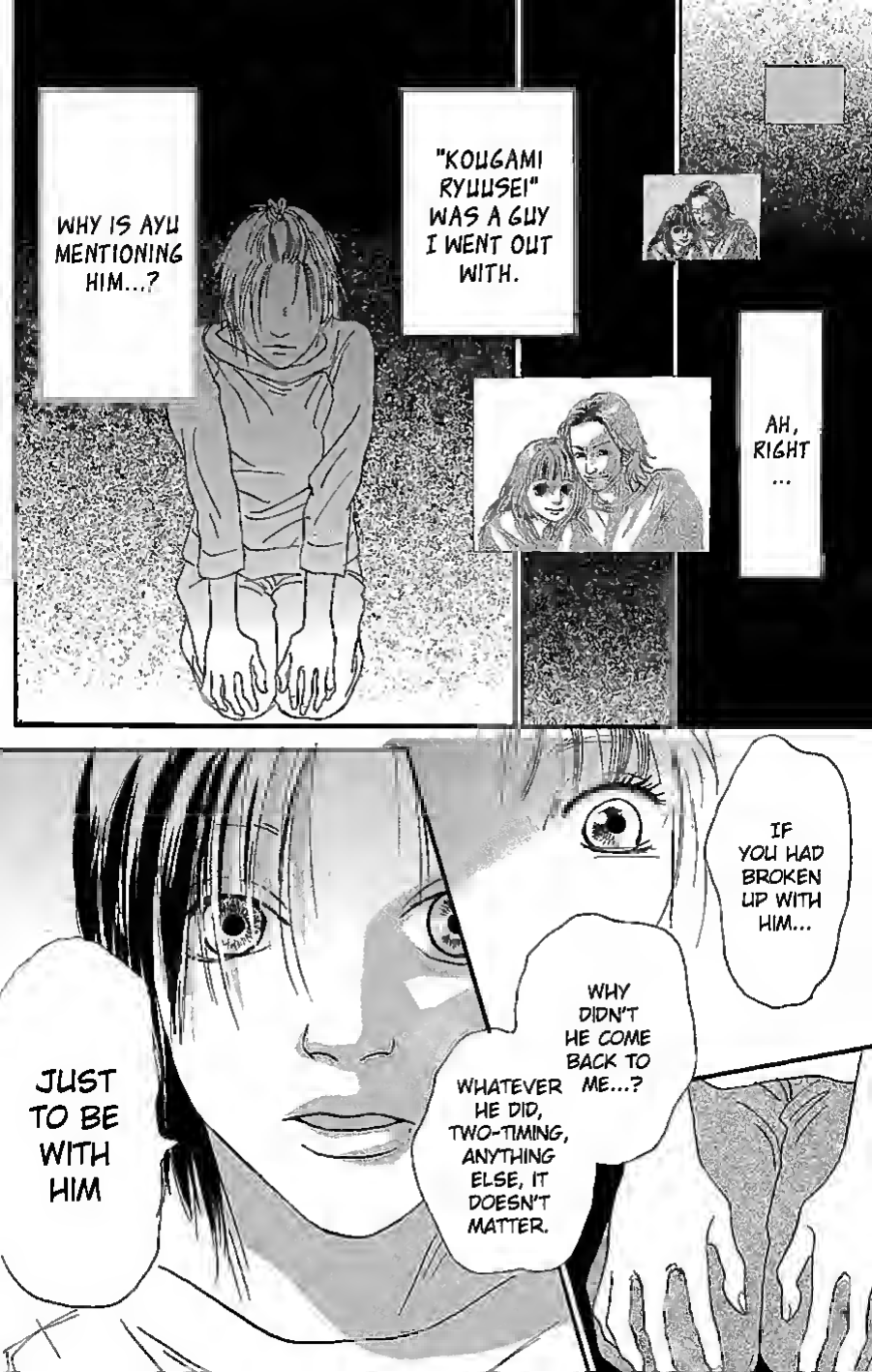
THAT WAS AWFUL....
WHY...
I CAME
BECAUSE I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST GONNA BE THE TWO OF US!
.....
.....
...
TH... THAT... THAT'S WHY...
There, I said it!
WHAT!
IT'S PROBABLY NOTHING,
BUT WHEN WE WERE IN THIRD YEAR I GOT A LETTER FROM HER.
I like you.
Takagi Ayumi
IT WAS KINDA CREEPY, SO I JUST IGNORED IT.

AYU'S HOUSE IS AT THE CORNER OF A ROW OF IDENTICAL COMPANY HOUSING BUILDINGS.
SIS,
THERE'S A WOMAN HERE TO SEE YOU.
HUH?
RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE
SLRM
thump
thump
...
AYU
...
.....
.....
SORRY FOR COMING HERE SO SUDDENLY...
I SHOULD HAVE CALLED.

YOU WERE WORRIED, WEREN'T YOU?
I'M GLAD.
SAE,
HAYATA ISN'T A BAD GUY.
I JUST WENT OVERBOARD WITH THE TEASING.
SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.
AYU.
I—
IT'S NOT LIKE I WANT HAYATA-KUN NO MATTER WHAT.
...
IS THAT SO?
YEAH.
SO...
IF
IF YOU'RE HOLDING BACK YOUR OWN FEELINGS JUST FOR ME...

TO THINK THAT THIS WOMAN WHO GOT HER COURAGE AND CONFIDENCE BY CHANGING HER APPEARANCE IS REPRESSING HER FEELINGS JUST FOR "ME"
MIGHT BE A LITTLE CONCEITED.
HOW KIND OF YOU...
YOU'RE GONNA HOLD YOURSELF BACK FOR ME?

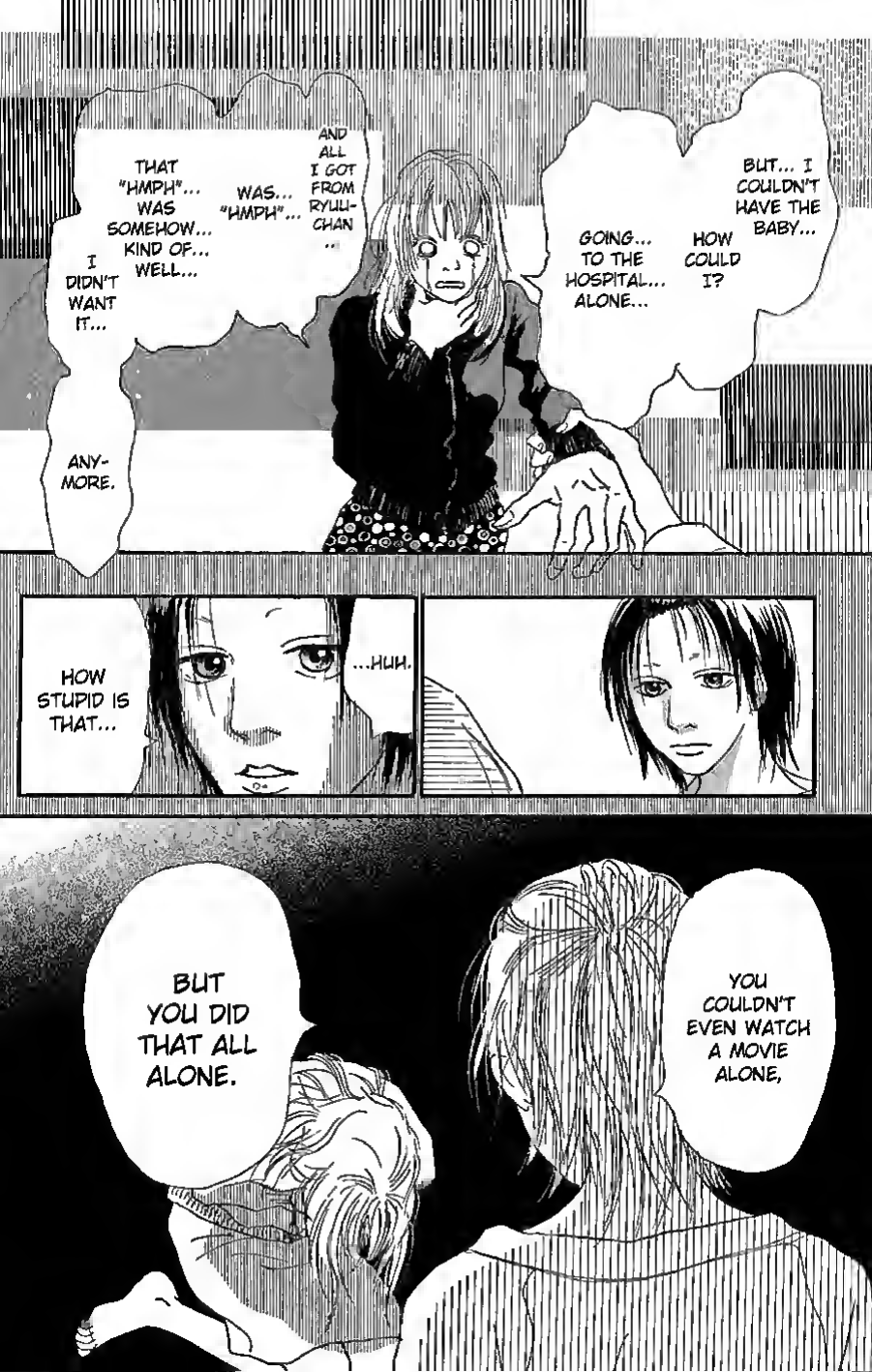
IF THAT'S TRUE, YOU SHOULD'VE HELD YOURSELF BACK FROM KOUGAMI RYUUSEI...
DIDN'T IMMEDIATELY KNOW WHAT SHE WAS TALKING ABOUT...
I...


WHY IS AYU MENTIONING HIM...?
"KOUGAMI RYUUSEI" WAS A GUY I WENT OUT WITH.
AH, RIGHT ...
IF YOU HAD BROKEN UP WITH HIM...
WHY DIDN'T HE COME BACK TO ME...?
WHATEVER HE DID, TWO-TIMING, ANYTHING ELSE, IT DOESN'T MATTER.
JUST TO BE WITH HIM

I BECAME THIS PRETTY...
GRAB
CLATTER
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
WE'RE NOT DONE YET.
HEHE
smile
SAE.
THOSE "NEGATIVE FEELINGS".
I WAS SO HAPPY WHEN I THOUGHT YOU WERE GONNA BE AT THE REUNION.
I WAS ALREADY PLANNING WHAT MISCHIEF I COULD DO.
BUT YOU SAID YOU WEREN'T COMING,
AND I THOUGHT THAT WAS THAT.
I AT LEAST WANTED YOU TO SEE THE WOMAN WHO BECAME PRETTY FOR A GUY SHE LIKED.

AND THERE YOU WERE IN HAYATA'S ARMS,
LOOKING SO HAPPY!
THOSE "NEGATIVE FEELINGS"
HAD BEEN THERE FROM THE BEGINNING.
I FAILED...
WAS I JUST TOO NAIVE?
NOTHING WAS EVER HARD FOR YOU.
YOU WERE CUTE, LOVED BY EVERYONE, GETTING BY ON YOUR FAMILY'S CONNECTIONS.
"HURT BY A TWO-TIMER"?
HOW COULD THAT BE, WHEN RYUUSEI PICKED YOU OVER ME?!
NO MATTER HOW MUCH I CLUNG TO RYUUSEI, IT WAS ALWAYS ME—

WHO WAS MISER-ABLE...
I...
WAS...
PREG-NANT...
WHO WAS
MISERABLE.

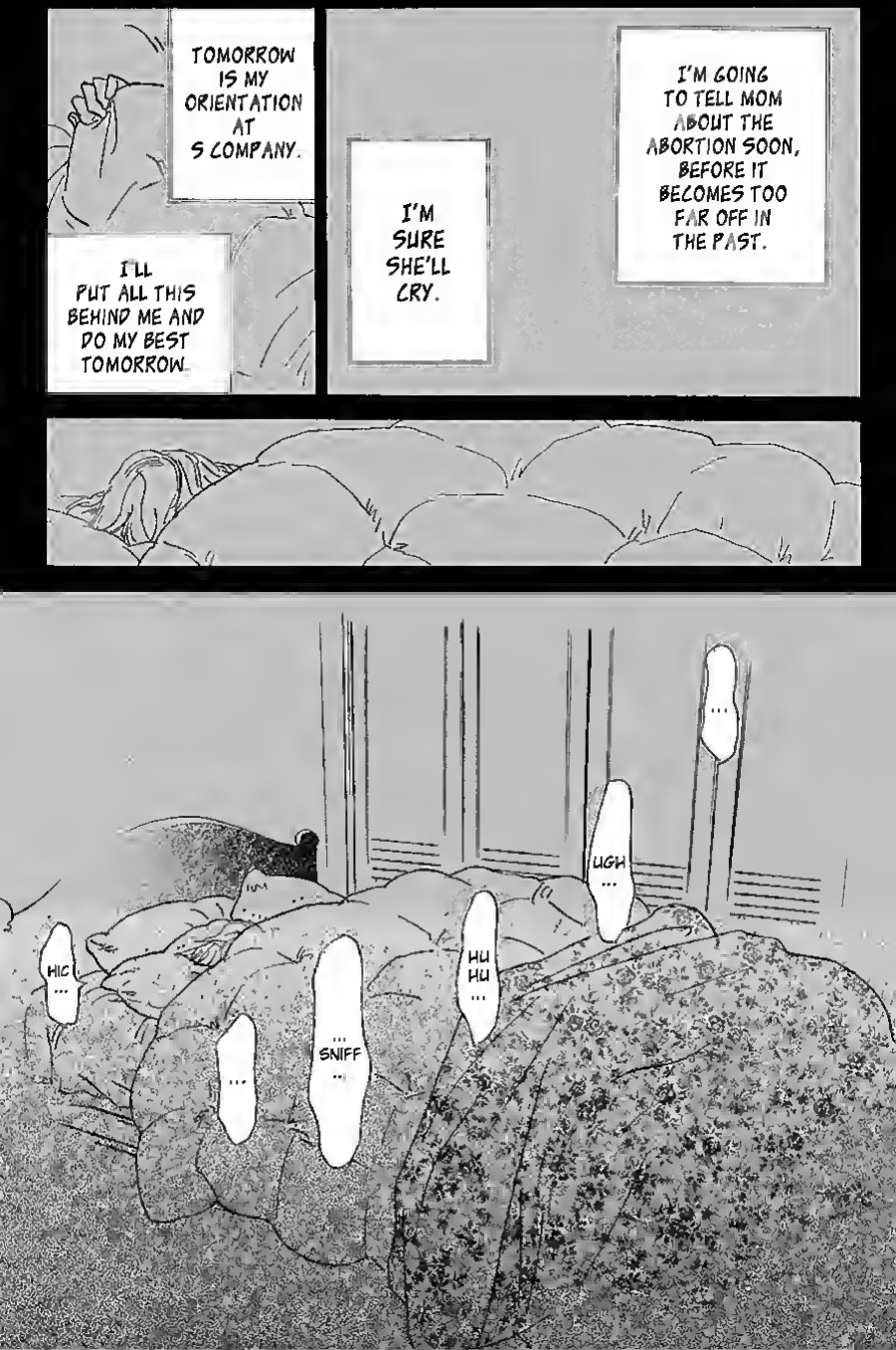

BUT... I COULDN'T HAVE THE BABY...
HOW COULD I?
GOING... TO THE HOSPITAL... ALONE...
AND ALL I GOT FROM RYUU-CHAN ...
WAS... "HMPH"...
THAT "HMPH"... WAS SOMEHOW... KIND OF... WELL...
I DIDN'T WANT IT...
ANY-MORE.
...HUH.
HOW STUPID IS THAT...
YOU COULDN'T EVEN WATCH A MOVIE ALONE,
BUT YOU DID THAT ALL ALONE.

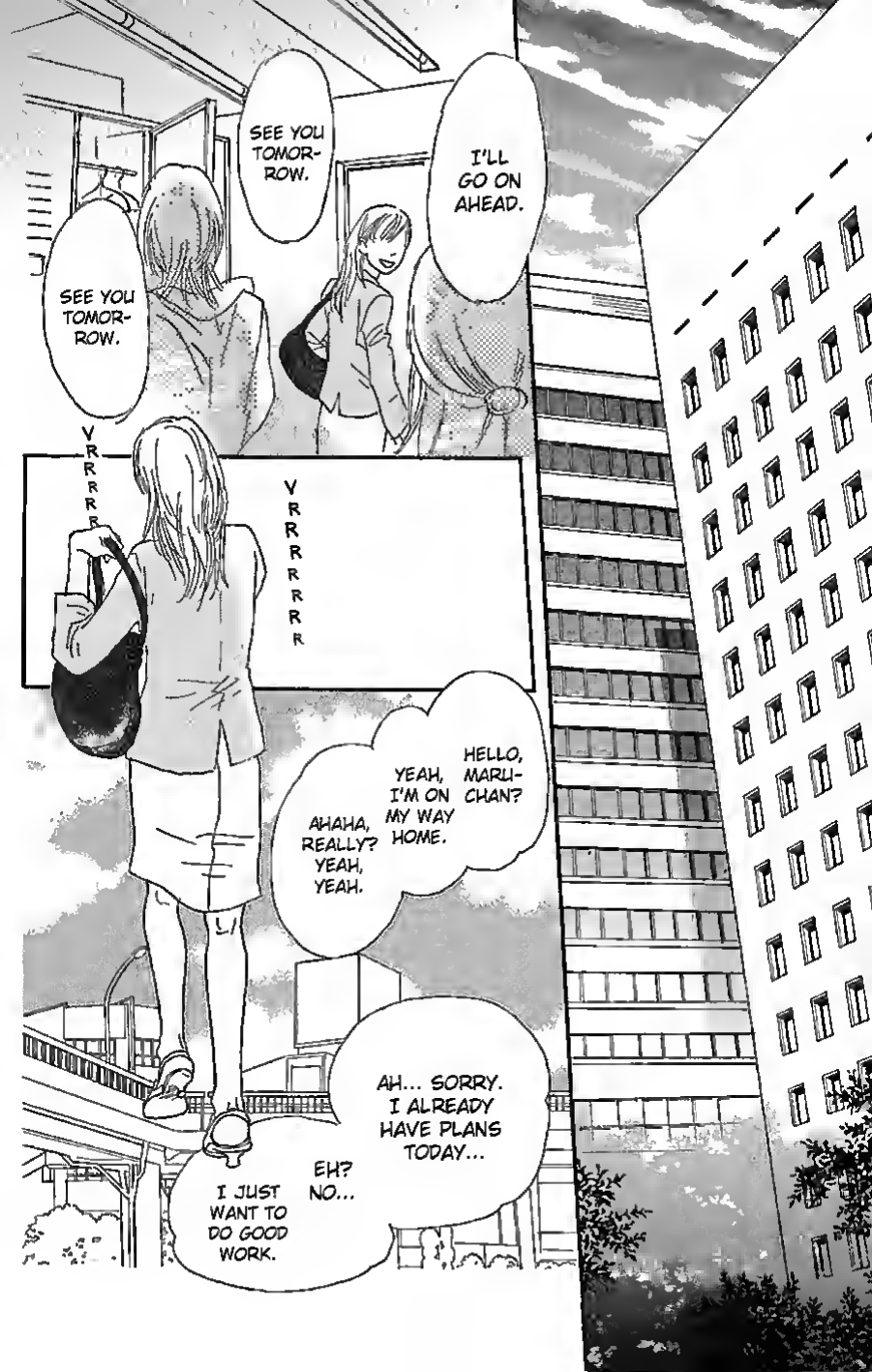
I KNOW.
"SAE."

EVERYTHING
WAS A LIE.

CLOSE
.....
.....
"THEY'RE ALL SO YOU."
"AND YOUR BED-SHEETS"
"YOUR BED"

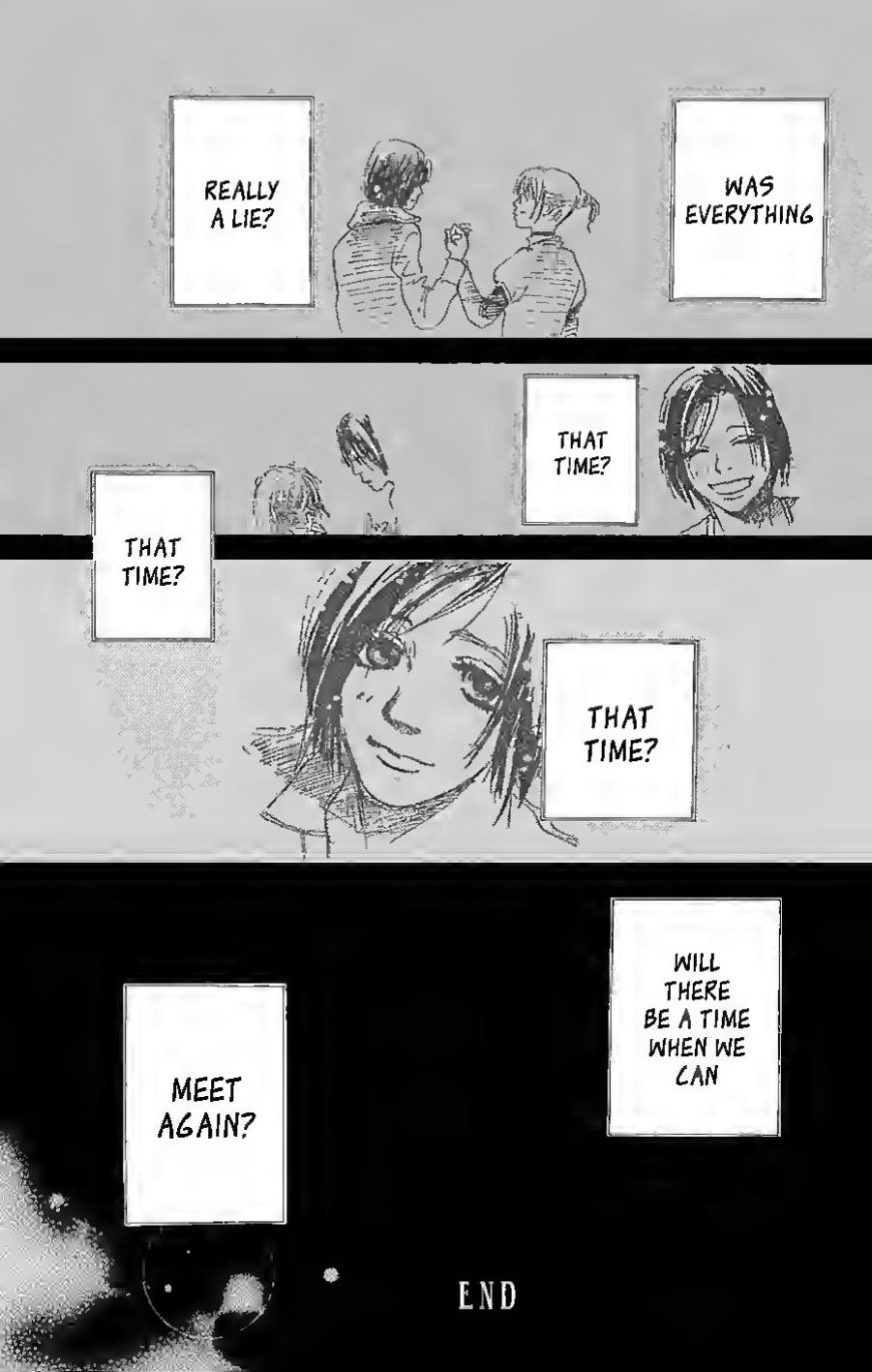
"THAT'S ALWAYS HOW I DO THINGS."
ARE A BUNCH OF CIGARETTE BURNS.
AT THE EDGE OF MY BEDSHEETS, AT THE CORNER BY THE WALL THAT CAN'T BE SEEN MUCH
"NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU'VE BEEN HURT."
"ALWAYS GET UP,"
AT LEAST NOW I SEE THAT I WASN'T DOING THINGS RIGHT.
PWIP
IF THAT'S HOW SHE DOES THINGS,
I CAN'T GET MYSELF TO DISAGREE WITH THAT.


TOMORROW IS MY ORIENTATION AT S COMPANY.
I'LL PUT ALL THIS BEHIND ME AND DO MY BEST TOMORROW.
I'M SURE SHE'LL CRY.
I'M GOING TO TELL MOM ABOUT THE ABORTION SOON, BEFORE IT BECOMES TOO FAR OFF IN THE PAST.
...
UGH ...
HU HU ...
... SNIFF ...
...
HIC ...
...


I'LL GO ON AHEAD.
SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW.
SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW.
VRRRRRRR
VRRRRRRR
HELLO, MARU-CHAN?
YEAH, I'M ON MY WAY HOME.
AHAHA, REALLY? YEAH, YEAH.
AH... SORRY. I ALREADY HAVE PLANS TODAY...
EH? NO...
I JUST WANT TO DO GOOD WORK.

I'M STILL CONCERNED ABOUT IT.
BUT THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT IT.
I HAVEN'T SEEN AYU SINCE THEN.
YEAH, SEE YOU. BYEBYE.
WHAT AYU
I'VE WONDERED
WANTED TO DO TO ME.
GRAB
THUMP

AH, SORRY.
...
tap tap tap
BA DUMP
BA DUMP
BA DUMP
beep beep
fwoosh
chatter
chatter
fwoosh...
I'M HUNGRY.
WHAT DO YOU WANNA EAT?
YAKITORI!
Is that so


REALLY A LIE?
WAS EVERYTHING
THAT TIME?
THAT TIME?
THAT TIME?
WILL THERE BE A TIME WHEN WE CAN
MEET AGAIN?
END